

**City Council of the City of New Castle**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle**  
**Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Call to order: 7:00 pm**

**Roll Call:**

Councilperson Megginson – present  
Council President Ratchford – present  
Councilperson Petty – present  
Councilperson Di Mondì – present

Also present:

Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
Jamie Rogers, Police Chief  
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor  
William Barthel, City Administrator  
Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official

**Approval of Minutes by Date:** Special Meeting on 01/10/17, Regular Meeting on 1/10/17, and Special Meeting on 01/26/17 and **Approval to Accept Staff Reports** as submitted.

Councilperson Petty motioned and Councilperson Megginson seconded approval of the Staff Reports as submitted for the Special Meeting on 01/10/17 and Special Meeting on 01/26/17 and as amended for the Regular Meeting on 1/10/17. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the City's accounts as of January 31, 2016. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$4,230,862.44.

Councilperson Megginson motioned and Councilperson Petty seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Report from the City Administrator & Staff:**

City Administrator Barthel:

- Construction of the pier is complete and the City met with DEMA and FEMA for the final inspection and to provide paperwork and. A couple of items on the punch list need to be corrected. After the project is finished, \$67,000 of the funding remains. The City has asked Representative Mulrooney for funds to remain with City for another project along the water yet to be determined.
- The City received community transportation funds of \$80,000 for some street projects from Senator Poore and Representative Mulrooney.

Police Chief Rogers:

- Reported the police department statistics for January.

- Detectives are investigating a shooting in Booker Circle.
- A request for commendation has been submitted for the property at 1100 Washington Street which was formerly used for prostitution.
- In response to citizen requests, speed enforcement was conducted on East 3rd for 3 hours where the average speed was just over 17 mph in a 15 MPH limit and on Route 9 where the average speed was 27 MPH in a 25 MPH limit. The police do not see a problem with speed in either location.
- Route 9 is a State Road and only the State can restrict truck traffic. Solicitor Losco added that the noise on Route 9 has been studied twice and was found not to exceed the noise ordinance.
- The State Truck Enforcement Unit has found overweight trucks on Route 9. The fine is about \$5,000, but the State gets the money. Neighbors have been complaining about presence of the truck unit. If the complaints continue, they will stop the enforcement.

Councilperson Di Mondì commented that people are exasperated about the trucks on Route 9 through Dobbinsville. He submitted a resolution to ask DelDOT to place Stop signs in Dobbinsville but the Council President didn't put the item on the agenda. President Ratchford responded that the item was not put on agenda because it is a DelDOT road and City has no jurisdiction. The city's traffic engineer has reported that the nationally accepted criteria for a stop sign or signal control is not met at this intersection.

#### **Council Communications:**

Councilperson Petty reported that truck traffic continues on Buttonwood Avenue. Police Chief Rogers stated that the City has ordered the signs but they are not in yet. The police will continue to ticket trucks in violation.

#### **Business from the Mayor:**

None

#### **Business from the Council President:**

The new administrative officer of Good Will Fire Company was introduced.

#### **Business from the Floor:**

None

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-05** to recognize Evelyn Lambdin's 100th Birthday.

The **Motion** to consider Resolution No. 2017-05 was made by Councilperson Petty and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

**Resolution No. 2017-05 passed unanimously.**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-06** to approve the placement request of Bailey's Dawgs as a vendor operating within the City limits.

The **Motion** to consider Resolution No. 2017-06 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Petty.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

One of the owners of Bailey's Dawgs, Harvey Whiteman state this will be their seventh year. They are asking to operate in the same location and off the same products.

**Resolution No. 2017-06 passed unanimously.**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-07** to approve the Mayor's Appointment to the Planning Commission to replace Florence L. Smith whose Term Ends 4/8/2017 with William Walters for a term from April 8, 2017 to April 8, 2020.

The Motion to consider Resolution No. 2017-07 was made by Councilperson Petty and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Councilperson Di Mondì asked Mr. Walters where he lives. Mr. Walters has lived in town for 30 years at 315 South Street.

Councilperson Megginson commented that 90% of the commission members never come to Council meetings to get the pulse of the Council. He acknowledged a couple of members of the board of health and one from planning that were present. Commission members should come to the Council meetings. Mr. Walters agreed to come to Council meetings.

**Resolution No. 2017-07 passed unanimously.**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-08** to request funding from the Trustees of the New Castle Common.

The Motion to consider Resolution No. 2017-08 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Petty.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

President Ratchford stated that there have been previous requests but there has been some confusion over what the Trust wants to fund and what the process is. The City was advised to submit a request for specific projects.

Councilperson Di Mondi added that the City already went to the Trustees four or five months ago with an informal request. He asked why the City is asking them for money when the Trust owes money as a result of the annexation that should have never been accepted. A large portion of the police resources are used for the Farmer's Market with about \$250,000 per year in police costs.

**Resolution No. 2017-08 passed with 3 yes votes.**

Councilperson Megginson – yes  
Council President Ratchford – yes  
Councilperson Petty – yes  
Councilperson Di Mondi – no

**Comments from the floor**

Victor Bryson of Clark Street commented that new sewer pipes are being installed on Clark Street and the water lines repaired. He believes all this is going on to complete development in the Comprehensive Plan. President Ratchford replied that the sewer lines belong to New Castle County and that is their project. The Municipal Services Commission is relining the pipes to extend their life by 50 years.

Dorsey Fiske of E 3rd Street is disturbed that the Weekly and Jaycees will be sponsoring the candidate forum. She is asking that the Jaycees insist that they do it alone. Terry Gormley, editor of the Weekly responded that the paper was asked by Arasapha to take over the forum. They were unhappy with how it went the last time and determined that it is not within Arasapha's mission. Councilperson Di Mondi added that he has written correspondence that he is not to speak with the Weekly except through attorney. A heated exchange about their communications followed between Councilperson Di Mondi and Ms. Gormley.

Bill Emory of Baldt would to open a conversation with the Municipal Services Commission regarding the City of New Castle's omission from any programs for solar panels that benefit the home owner. There was money that benefitted two homes. His son participates and it is very beneficial. He would like a line of communications opened to allow citizens to request participation. He spoke to representative and was given a little information. There are solar panels on the farm that belong to the MSC for the pumping station but not the farm. Citizens are permitted to install solar panels if they foot the bill, but they cannot get funds for programs to help pay the cost.

Valarie Leary of Harmony Street asked about putting no truck turn signs before intersections to stop trucks from turning on Buttonwood. The Police Chief stated that the City cannot put a sign on the State Road. To get State to do it, they would need to do a traffic study.

The **Motion to adjourn** was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Petty and **passed unanimously**. Council adjourned at 8:01pm.

Council met in Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel  
Clerk of the City of New Castle